

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 347

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJECT: MAVROS LETTER ATTACKS CARAMANLIS, CHARGES CYPRUS
CONSPIRACY AND CALLS FOR SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

REFS: (A) FBIS AT 050800Y; (B) FBIS AT 050851Y

1. THE CONTENTS OF A WELL PUBLICIZED LETTER SENT TO PRIME
MINISTER CARAMANLIS BY CU/NF LEADER MAVROS (REF A) WERE
MADE PUBLIC ON SEP 5. THE LETTER AND THE PRIME
MINISTER'S REPLY (REF B), THE TEXT OF WHICH WAS ALSO
RELEASED, WERE HEAVILY PLAYED BY THE MEDIA.

2. IN HIS LETTER, MAVROS EXPRESSED HIS SERIOUS CONCERN AT
THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT DRAMA SPEECH (ATHENS 6650)
WHICH, HE CLAIMED, DEMONSTRATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONALISTIC APPROACH TO DEMOCRACY HE FOLLOWED IN GOVERNING
THE NATION. THE OPPOSITION LEADER SEVERELY CHASTIZED THE
GOVERNMENT FOR ITS HASTY ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE COMMU-
TATION OF THE DEATH SENTENCES OF THE THREE JUNTA LEADERS.
HE DECRIED THAT IT ALSO CONTRAVENED THE CONSTITUTIONAL
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PROCESS.

3. IN AN EXPRESSION OF PERSONAL PIQUE, MAVROS LAMBASTED GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN WHO HAD REFERRED TO HIS CRITICISM AS "COMIC," FINALLY, MAVROS REJECTED ALLEGATIONS (IMPLIED RECENTLY BY GREEK CYPRIOT LEADER CLERIDES) THAT HE, AS FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE TIME, HAD LOST AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS CRISIS AT GENEVA LAST YEAR, MAVROS CHARGED THAT A PLOT WAS NOW AFOOT TO PREJUDICE THE FORTHCOMING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON CYPRUS IN N.Y. HE CALLED FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

4. IN REPLY, PM CARAMANLIS STATED HE WOULD OVER-LOOK MAVROS' CRITICAL PERSONAL CHARACTERIZATIONS REGARDING HIS DRAMA SPEECH, MOREOVER HE SAID, THE LECTURE ON DEMOCRACY IN THE LETTER SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED TO HIM. HE INDICATED THAT THE GOG POSITION ON THE COMMUTATIONS WAS KNOWN AND HAD BEEN EXPLAINED EXTENSIVELY. THE GOVERNMENT JUDGED THAT THE EXECUTION OF THE CONDEMNED WOULD HURT DEMOCRACY. THE "HASTE" WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT MADE KNOWN ITS INTENTION HAD ALSO BEEN EXPLAINED ADEQUATELY, HE MAINTAINED. WHILE THERE COULD BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THIS, NEITHER ALLUSIONS (ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S MOTIVES) NOR ANXIETY FOR THIS MOVE WAS JUSTIFIED. ON CYPRUS, HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER CONCURRED THAT ANY CRITICISM OF MAVROS ROLE AT GENEVA WAS UNFAIR, BUT ATTRIBUTED THE CRITICISM TO AMISUNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN A PLOT. HE SAID THE PRESENT PHASE OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION DID NOT JUSTIFY A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT. MOREOVER THE CYPRIOT GOVT HAS THE INITIATIVE ON THE MATTER. THE GREEK GOVT STANDS BY IT FULLY AND DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY STEPS FOR AN URGENT DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT.

5. FINALLY, CARAMANLIS REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL TENSION WHICH MAVROS HAD MENTIONED AND SAID HE CONSIDERED IT ARTIFICIAL. HE CHARGED THAT MAVROS OBVIOUSLY IGNORED THE INSULTING AND INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS OF THE OPPOSITION. IT WAS TO THE OPPOSITION IN GENERAL, RATHER THAN MAVROS PERSONALLY, CARAMANLIS ADDED, THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE DIRECTED. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING MAVROS OTHERWISE CORRECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION -- THAT THE COUNTRY FACES MANY CRITICAL PROBLEMS -- IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE PERSISTENT EFFORTS OF THE OPPOSITION TO CREATE POLITICAL TENSION. KUBISCH

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